

which larvae of this species do not survive. While other species will clearly have different temperature points which are lethal, it seems to me that this observation could well explain the decline of some species that has occurred in spite of (or because of) a spell of what may have seemed to us a particularly fine summer. BRIAN O.C. GARDINER, 18 Chesterton Hall Crescent, Cambridge CB4 1AP

ORGYIA ANTIQUA L., THE VAPOURER MOTH (LEP.: LYMANTRIIDAE) IN SHETLAND— at 20.00 hours on September 6th 1987, I was enjoying an evening stroll along the cliffs at Dale of Walls on the west coast of mainland Shetland. The weather was clear and sunny following several days of southerly winds. As I walked, a moth became entangled in my hair, which, on further examination, proved to be a male *antiqua*.

As far as I am aware, this moth has not been previously recorded from Shetland, but is widespread in the British Isles, being recorded to the North from Iceland, and to the south on mainland Orkney and Hoy, where it feeds on willow, rowan or even montbretia. My thanks are due to Mr D. Carstairs for confirming the identity of the moth, and to Mr R.I. Lorimer for his comments on its distribution. C. BARTON, 20 Kenilworth Road, Thornham, Rochdale OL16 4SF.

SCHRANKIA COSTAESTRIGALIS STEPHENS: PINION-STREAKED SNOOT (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE) IN BRECONSHIRE.— Contrary to Mr A.D. Riley's note in *Ent. Rec.* **100**: 141-142, this species appears to have been first noted in Breconshire by R.G. Warren in the Valley of the Afon Pyrddin on July 25, 1952 (cf. Sankey-Barker, Chalmers-Hunt and Parker, *Butterflies and Moths of Breconshire* (1978), p.60).

Furthermore, there is an earlier record for Montgomeryshire of *Eupithecia trisignaria* H.-S. Thus, P.B.M. Allan records it from Aberhafesp in 1944 (cf. Smith, *The Butterflies and Moths found in the County of Montgomery etc. Proc. Chester Soc. nat. Sci. Lit. Art* **3**: 58 (1950)). J. M. CHALMERS-HUNT, 1 Hardcourts Close, West Wickham, Kent.

A MELANIC LYGDIA ADUSTATA L. (LEP.: GEOMETRIDAE) IN HAMPSHIRE— L.W. Newman obtained a feral melanic specimen at Bexley, Kent on 25.iii.1903 which was described and illustrated by E. Cockayne (*Entomologist* **83**: 53) as ab. *plumbosa*, and is now in the National Collection. There seems to have been no further record of this melanic which is deep bluish grey with the normal black markings visible as darker bands, until 29.iv.1987 when a specimen was attracted to my m.v. light at Brockenhurst, Hants. *L. adustata* is a species often noticed settled upon the upper side of leaves, appearing to resemble a bird dropping; melanic forms in such species are usually absent or very rare and would seem to confer no advantage to the species. B.K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Dartford, Kent.